

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 3, 1993      Hearing Room D 3:30 p.m.      Tape 21

MEMBERS PRESENT:            Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen, Chair Rep. Marilyn Dell  
Rep. Sam Dominy Rep. Bill Fisher Rep. Tim Josi Rep. Dennis Luke Rep.  
Bill Markham Rep. Chuck Norris

MEMBER EXCUSED:            Rep. Ray Baum

STAFF PRESENT:            Catherine Fitch, Committee Administrator Sue  
Nichol, Committee Clerk

MEASURES CONSIDERED:

HB 2209 - Public Hearing HB 2682 - Public Hearing

WITNESSES:                Rep. John Schoon, District 34 John H.  
McCulley, California Table Grape Commission Mike McCallum, Oregon  
Restaurant Association Phil Ward, Department of Agriculture Lorna  
Youngs, Oregon Department of Agriculture Mike Dewey, Oregon Potato  
Commission Jay Hoffman, Oregon Potato Commission

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize  
statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in  
quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents  
of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate  
Graphic ---]

TAPE 21, SIDE A

005      CHAIR VanLEEUEWEN:      Calls the meeting to order at 3:40.

PUBLIC HEARING HB 2682

016      CATHERINE FITCH: Explains HB 2682 which refines existing Oregon  
law to specifically prohibit application of sulfites as a food  
additive to

fresh food consumed in Oregon restaurants.      (Exhibit A)

028      REP. JOHN SCHOON, District 34: Encourages passage of HB 2682.  
This bill would allow foods such as grapes which have had sulfites added  
in

processing to be sold in restaurants. The grapes must still meet EPA  
guidelines for residue levels before shipment.

081      JOHN H. MCCULLEY, California Table Grape Commission: Urges  
passage of HB 2682 as the sulfur dioxide used on table grapes has not

been shown to cause any harmful reactions in anyone. Submits Exhibit B which includes testimony and a list of other foods which use sulphur dioxide in

processing.

126 REP. NORRIS: Is this 10 ppm residue readily and reliably detected?

129 MCCULLEY: It is not an easily detected substance. EPA has determined that the methodology used provides an adequate level of safety for

consumers.

139 REP. NORRIS: Is the 10 ppm a reasonable standard in terms of its detectability?

140 MCCULLEY: Nothing below 10 ppm can be detected. If they can't find any, they assume that it's below that.

147 MIKE MCCALLUM, Oregon Restaurant Association: Grapes are the only fresh product that is treated in this way. Grapes are prepared the same way

in the grocery stores, so they should be permitted to be served in restaurants.

156 REP. DELL: Would this allow other foods to be served besides grapes that are processed in this way?

160 MCCULLEY: According to how the statute was interpreted by the Health Division, any product that was considered to have been processed, i.e.

dried fruits, wine; would not fall under this ban. 173 PHIL WARD, Department of Agriculture: The Department has representatives available for questions.

180 REP. LUKE: Does the Department of Agriculture or the Health Department oppose this bill?

193 WARD: No, I don't believe so.

190 CHAIR VanLEEuwEN: Public hearing on HB 2682 closed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2209

200 CATHERINE FITCH: Gives summary of HB 2209 and amendments proposed by the Department of Agriculture. (Exhibits C and D). The amendments would repeal the requirement for state grading inspection of Oregon grown

potatoes, but would allow inspections to continue on a voluntary basis.

215 LORNA YOUNGS, Oregon Department of Agriculture: Asking for the state requirement for potato inspection to be repealed so the federal

marketing order alone will require this inspection. This allows the marketing order to make any needed changes without changing state law.

Summarizes EXHIBIT E.

248 MIKE DEWEY, Potato Commission: The Potato Commission has not yet taken a position on the amendments. They will probably support the

amendments.

271 REP. MARKHAM: How many growers belong to the Commission?

276 JAY HOFFMAN, Oregon Potato Commission: About 500 to 600 statewide.

286 CHAIR VanLEEuwEN: How do you feel about HB 2209 personally?

288 HOFFMAN: I have no problem with it. It gives us more flexibility to use just the marketing order to handle our product. Our requirements

under our marketing order are more stringent than the state requires.

300 CHAIR VanLEEuwEN: So basically you favor the bill?

301 HOFFMAN: Yes.

303 REP. MARKHAM: What happens if your potatoes don't grade up?

305 HOFFMAN: They can go to cattle feed or be processed. You have the option of cleaning the load up and make it acceptable to another buyer.

338 REP. NORRIS: Does this apply to any potatoes, no matter where they're grown?

345 YOUNGS: Potatoes must still be labeled to grade, no matter where they come from.

367 HOFFMAN: Oregon won't be at any disadvantage compared to growers from nearby states.

375 REP. LUKE: Asks if Mr. Dewey's group has any problems with the bill, that he let the subcommittee know as soon as possible.

377 DEWEY: We will try to work out any differences with the Department of Agriculture.

307 CHAIR VanLEEuwEN: Closes hearing.

412 Meeting adjourned 4:10.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Sue Nichol  
Administrator

Catherine Fitch Clerk

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - HB 2682 - Preliminary Staff Measure Summary - Catherine  
Fitch - 3 pages B - HB 2682 - Testimony and information - John  
McCulley - 5 pages C - HB 2209 - Preliminary Staff Measure Summary  
- Catherine Fitch - 4 pages D - HB 2209 - Hand engrossed HB  
2209-1 amendments - Staff - 3 pages E - HB 2209 - Testimony -  
Lorna Youngs - 1 page